

VZCZCXRO4158
PP RUEHIK
DE RUEHVI #1480 3241327
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 201327Z NOV 09
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3657
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS VIENNA 001480

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/SCE, L/EUR, AND L/UNA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AORC](#) [PREL](#) [ICJ](#) [KV](#) [AU](#)

SUBJECT: AUSTRIA TO MAKE ORAL PRESENTATION AT KOSOVO ICJ
HEARING

REF: A. STATE 90199

[1](#)B. VIENNA 1152

Thomas Schnoell, MFA Unit Chief for Southeast Europe, told Polchief November 20 that Austria will make an oral statement before the ICJ December 1 in the Kosovo advisory opinion case. The GOA reached its decision after an extended debate between the MFA legal department, which argued that Austria's written brief was sufficient, and diplomats in the Southeast Europe Department, who emphasized the political importance of an oral statement. Schnoell said MFA officials determined that Austria needed to make a statement in support of Kosovo independence to counterbalance the statements of ICJ members expected to back Serbia's position.
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